

Members who have stayed long after the legislative business of the House to express their profound respect for the work of BRUCE VENTO in this body, for the friendship that he has meant to each of them.

BRUCE VENTO, like all of us, had great moments in this body, but none was greater than the moment that he took some months ago in the well of this House to address us all about the illness which had afflicted him and which he knew would take his life.

What stands out is that in a time of rancor, in a body where campaigns have moved from the hinterlands to the House floor and have so often spilled over into invective, that was a shining moment for this House, where he spoke of the politics of joy and of hope, of the meaning of public service, and his pride in serving the people of his district, of his State, and of his country.

It was a great moment for the House of Representatives, one that will be enshrined forever, not just in the RECORD, but in the hearts of all of us who were privileged to hear that beautiful outpouring of the meaning of this great deliberative body.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), who sat side by side with BRUCE VENTO throughout all these 12 terms.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I think my friend for yielding time to me.

Indeed, BRUCE VENTO was a dear colleague to me, as well. Having served with him, as well as the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), side by side, first on the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, and now on the Committee on Resources for my 24 years in this body, to say that BRUCE VENTO knew what was in every piece of legislation that came before our committee is not an understatement.

As I said, having sat next to him, I could see him and would marvel at the way he would read every piece of bill upon which he were asked to vote, with that red highlight pen underlining the pertinent pieces of every piece of legislation that came before our committee.

Truly, he was a knowledgeable Member of this body. He was dedicated to our environment. He came with me to my district in southern West Virginia, rode on our whitewater rivers, and came back and helped me craft legislation to preserve those rivers for generations to come.

BRUCE was in my class. We came to this body in 1977. Throughout our years together, he was a man who truly lived the words "public servant" to their fullest.

To his wife, to his family, to his friends back in Minnesota who he so ably served, I do say, we shall all miss him. BRUCE VENTO was a dear friend to all of us.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, in the few moments that remain, there was only one other person who in my memory stands out for having taken the well of the House to address his colleagues on the meaning of life and the meaning of legislative service. That was Senator Hubert Humphrey, who was invited by this body to address the House from the Clerk's desk.

Parenthetically, when he arrived there, he looked out over this assembled gathering of Members of the House and Members of the Senate and said, "Oh, you don't know how long I have waited to stand here and make this speech."

BRUCE and I were standing together and marvelled at this wonderful expose of the meaning of the legislative process and of service to humanity. Little did either of us realize years later he, too, would take the well to give a similar civics lesson, one from the heart, on the meaning of comity and of service.

At the fundraising event in BRUCE's honor where funds were raised for a scholarship program for science students, little red pine seedlings were handed out. I took three of those, one for each of his sons, because I had a sense then that we were witnessing a drama that would play itself out in the end of his life in some months.

I planted those seedlings in our backyard. They are thriving. They will get another place where they will get more light, more strength. They will be a symbol to all of us of this recurring resource that BRUCE fought so hard to preserve, to protect: the flora, the fauna, the water, the air, the land.

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At the end of life, we will not be judged by how large a surplus we left, how large a nuclear arsenal, how great an Army we left behind us, or by how many bills had been enacted into law. We will be judged by, I was naked and you clothed me; I was hungry and you fed me; I was homeless and you took me in.

When we cloth our fellow human beings in dignity, when we take the homeless into our hearts, into our lives, and when we feed the hungry with the spirit that gives life, we are truly doing the Lord's work in this life. That was BRUCE VENTO. That was all that he committed himself to do in public service.

With Samuel Gompers, BRUCE can say I came into the labor movement with one purpose, to leave it a better place and a better movement than I found it in. BRUCE leaves this body, his city, his district, his constituents these resources of land and air and water and the creatures among them in better condition than he found them in.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I join my colleagues tonight in this tribute to Congressman BRUCE VENTO. We all knew that someday Members of Congress would stand in the well of the House in tribute to BRUCE VENTO's many accomplishments, it is truly sad that this

day has come too soon. Since coming to Congress 8 years ago, I have had the pleasure of a close relationship with Congressman VENTO on the Banking Committee.

The Banking Committee deals with some of the most complex issues in all of Congress. Congressman VENTO put in the time, attended all the hearings, and mastered all these complex problems. As a teacher himself prior to coming to Congress, he became a resource to all Committee members, providing counsel on a host of from financial modernization to complex housing programs.

Congressman VENTO served as a tireless advocate for all consumers on the committee. He truly stood up for working people of all stripes time and time again. He made it a focus to make sure that individuals rights are protected by law as they interact with the most powerful financial companies in the world. His legacy on the committee and his impact on consumer banking law will live forward for decades to come.

From timeless issues such as housing for the poor, to newer issues like the protection of consumers' private banking information in the online world, Congressman VENTO was ahead of the curve, and on the people's side. I will truly miss Congressman VENTO, Congress is truly diminished by his absence. Let me convey to Congressman VENTO's family, his dedicated longtime staff here in Washington and Minnesota, and to the people of Congressman VENTO's 4th district my strongest, and heartfelt condolences.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. FOWLER). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that she will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken tomorrow.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING BURMA

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 328) expressing the sense of the Congress in recognition of the 10th anniversary of the free and fair elections in Burma and the urgent need to improve the democratic and human rights of the people of Burma, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 328

Whereas in 1988 thousands of Burmese citizens called for a democratic change in Burma and participated in peaceful demonstrations to achieve this result;

Whereas these demonstrations were brutally repressed by the Burmese military, resulting in the loss of hundreds of lives;

Whereas despite continued repression, the Burmese people turned out in record numbers to vote in elections deemed free and fair by international observers;

Whereas on May 27, 1990, the National League for Democracy (NLD) led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi won more than 60 percent of the popular vote and 80 percent of the parliamentary seats in the elections;

Whereas the Burmese military rejected the results of the elections, placed Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and hundreds of members of the NLD under arrest, pressured members of the NLD to resign, and severely restricted freedom of assembly, speech, and the press;

Whereas 48,000,000 people in Burma continue to suffer gross violations of human rights, including the right to democracy, and economic deprivation under a military regime known as the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC);

Whereas on September 16, 1998, the members of the NLD and other political parties who won the 1990 elections joined together to form the Committee Representing the People's Parliament (CRPP) as an interim mechanism to address human rights, economic and other conditions, and provide representation of the political views and voice of Members of Parliament elected to but denied office in 1990;

Whereas the United Nations General Assembly and Commission on Human Rights have condemned in nine consecutive resolutions the persecution of religious and ethnic minorities and the political opposition, and SPDC's record of forced labor, exploitation, and sexual violence against women;

Whereas the United States and the European Union Council of Foreign Ministers have similarly condemned conditions in Burma and officially imposed travel restrictions and other sanctions against the SPDC;

Whereas in May 1999, the International Labor Organization (ILO) condemned the SPDC for inflicting forced labor on the people and has banned the SPDC from participating in any ILO meetings;

Whereas the 1999 Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for Burma estimates more than 1,300 people continue to suffer inhumane detention conditions as political prisoners in Burma;

Whereas the Department of State International Narcotics Control Strategy Report for 2000 determines that Burma is the second largest world-wide source of illicit opium and heroin and that there are continuing, reliable reports that Burmese officials are "involved in the drug business or are paid to allow the drug business to be conducted by others", conditions which pose a direct threat to United States national security interests;

Whereas Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been denied the basic rights to freedom of movement and assemble with members of the NLD by Burmese security authorities who, on August 24, 2000, forcibly blocked her and her party from traveling to NLD township offices near Rangoon;

Whereas after having been halted for nine days at a roadblock, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her party were forcibly returned to Rangoon by Burmese security authorities;

Whereas since their forcible return to Rangoon Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other NLD leaders have been held incommunicado in their residences and diplomats and others have been denied access to them;

Whereas the refusal to allow Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to leave her compound or to allow others access to her has created grave concern for her safety and welfare;

Whereas the NLD party offices have been ransacked and documents seized by Burmese

authorities and access to the party headquarters has been denied to NLD members;

Whereas the Burmese authorities have continued to refuse to engage in a substantive dialogue with the NLD and other elements of the democratic opposition; and

Whereas despite these massive violations of human rights and civil liberties and chronic economic deprivation, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and members of the NLD have continued to call for a peaceful political dialogue with the SPDC to achieve a democratic transition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the Sense of the Congress that—

(1) United States policy should strongly support the restoration of democracy in Burma, including implementation of the results of the free and fair elections of 1990;

(2) United States policy should continue to call upon the military regime in Burma known as the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC)—

(A) to guarantee freedom of assembly, freedom of movement, freedom of speech, and freedom of the press for all Burmese citizens;

(B) to immediately accept a political dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the National League for Democracy (NLD), and ethnic leaders to advance peace and reconciliation in Burma;

(C) to immediately and unconditionally release all detained Members elected to the 1990 parliament and other political prisoners; and

(D) to promptly and fully uphold the terms and conditions of all human rights and related resolutions passed by the United Nations General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights, the International Labor Organization, and the European Union; and

(3) United States policy should sustain current economic and political sanctions against Burma as the appropriate means—

(A) to secure the restoration of democracy, human rights, and civil liberties in Burma; and

(B) to support United States national security counternarcotics interests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 328, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, we are on with the House business now after a very important and moving tribute to our late colleague, BRUCE VENTO. As I begin, I must reflect upon the service I had with him for almost 20 years on the Committee on Banking and Financial Services and earlier for 4 years on what was then the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, where

he really accomplished remarkable things in both jurisdictions, but I think he will be known so much for the kind of things that he assisted America to preserve and protect in our national environment.

I remember well how much assistance he gave to this Member on a very controversial measure related to a scenic river designation in my own State.

Today, Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 328 is before us. It was introduced on May 16 by the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER) and was unanimously approved by the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific on September 13 and by the House Committee on International Relations on September 21.

For over 10 years, the Burmese military regime, now known as the State Peace and Development Council, the SPDC, has refused to implement the results of the 1990 elections which were won overwhelmingly by the National League for Democracy, the NLD. During this period, and indeed since 1962, when General Ne Win and the military seized control, the Burmese military has engaged in egregious systematic violence and abuse of the fundamental human rights of ethnic minorities and other people of the country.

The abuses of the junta in Rangoon again came under international scrutiny when, on August 24 of this year, Aung San Suu Kyi was denied the ability to visit NLD party offices outside the capital. For 9 days, she was detained at a roadblock and eventually was forcibly removed to her residence. She and other NLD party leaders were placed under virtual house arrest.

Despite the military's denials, no independent observer was allowed to visit her; and the British ambassador, for example, was roughed up when he attempted to force his way into her compound. In addition, party offices were ransacked and papers seized.

To justify their action, the junta has issued the ludicrous charge that the NLD had formed an alliance with rebels in the provinces.

On September 21, the day the committee passed this measure, Aung San Suu Kyi was again blocked from traveling outside Rangoon by the military regime.

She planned to travel by train to Mandalay in order to visit with NLD party members. Officials at the Rangoon's central train station, insisting that there were no train tickets available, refused to sell tickets to her and her accompanying party.

Eventually, after hours of stalemate, police removed her from the train station and forced her to return home. Since her September 21 attempt to travel to Mandalay, Aung San Suu Kyi and other NLD party leaders remain under de facto house arrest, and the regime has denied any contact with foreign diplomats.

NLD vice chairman Tin Oo is being detained by the military regime.

This week, the U.N. Secretary General special envoy, Malaysian diplomat, Ambassador Razali Ismail, has

been in Rangoon meeting with senior leaders in the Burmese military regime, including Foreign Minister Win Aung and General Khin Nyunt. Despite his mandate to promote human rights and restore democracy in Burma, Ambassador Razali has yet to meet with Aung San Suu Kyi or any other NLD party leaders.

This is Razali's second visit to Burma as the U.N. Secretary General's special envoy. Clearly not meeting with Aung San Suu Kyi or any other NLD leaders brings the U.N.'s credibility into question.

Mr. Speaker, it is entirely proper, therefore, that the House of Representatives go on record condemning these human rights abuses. Since her electoral victory in 1990, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has repeatedly been arrested, threatened, and harassed.

The illegal SDPC military regime has done everything possible to discredit NLD and its leaders. This is simply wrong, and this body should say so.

Mr. Speaker, at the subcommittee markup, an amendment was approved that had the concurrence of the resolution's distinguished author, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER), and which was designed to update the situation in Burma.

The amendment updated the current standoff between Aung San Suu Kyi and the military by including six new whereas clauses. These clauses detailed the denial of right to movement and association, and the seizure of documents at NLD party offices.

The new language makes it clear that Aung San Suu Kyi was clearly within her rights in attempting to visit party offices and that there was no justification for the roadblock established by the SDPC.

Mr. Speaker, this Member urges the body to approve H. Con. Res. 328, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, like my colleague, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), the chairman of our Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific and the Committee on International Relations, I, too, echo the same sentiments as I expressed earlier about the passing of our colleague, BRUCE VENTO, from the State of Minnesota, expressing the same sympathy and condolences to the members of his family.

Mr. Speaker, I want to certainly thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), chairman of our Committee on International Relations, and also the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) as the chief cosponsors of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. I would first like to say introducing this resolution was very appropriate and the fact of the matter is that 12 years ago, thousands of Burmese citizens demonstrated in the streets calling for democratic change in Burma.

In May 1990, the National League for Democracy, led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi won more than 60 percent of the popular vote and 80 percent of the parliamentary seats in the elections.

Despite this, Mr. Speaker, instead of turning over the power to the winner of the elections, however, the Burmese military rejected the results of the election and, for the past 10 years, have continued their brutal crackdown on organized political opposition, free press, and freedom of assembly.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has remained under tight control since the elections, and Burma's dictators have even denied her ailing husband permission to visit his wife one last time before he passed away.

Mr. Speaker, the State Department's annual human rights report identifies more than 1,300 people who continue to suffer inhuman detention conditions as political prisoners in Burma. Furthermore, the State Department Narcotics Control Report for the year 2000 determined that Burma is the second largest worldwide source of illicit opium and heroin trafficking.

The United Nations General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights have responded to this continuing crackdown on basic freedoms by condemning nine consecutive resolutions, the persecution of religious and ethnic minorities and the political opposition.

The resolutions have also criticized Burma's record of forced labor, exploitation and sexual violence against women. Both the Clinton administration and the European Union have similarly condemned conditions in Burma and have imposed travel restrictions and other sanctions against Burma's dictators.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before the House today reiterates that it is U.S. policy to support the restoration of democracy in Burma, including the implementation of the 1990 elections.

The resolution also calls on Burma's leaders to guarantee the basic human rights of its citizens, to accept a dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, to immediately release all political prisoners, and to promptly uphold the terms of international resolutions on Burma's situation.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the resolution states that the U.S. should continue policies designed to secure the restoration of democracy, human rights and civil liberties in Burma and to support U.S. national security and counter-narcotics interests.

This is a great piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker; and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), my colleague on the Committee on International Relations, the chairman of the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), for yielding me the time; and I thank him for his work on behalf of Burmese people, for the fine remarks of the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), for the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for the work on this resolution and, above all, to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER), the prime sponsor of it.

Mr. Speaker, just over 10 years ago, in the spring of 1990, the people of Burma courageously embraced democracy. In the face of intimidation by the Burmese military, they turned out in record numbers to participate in free and fair elections.

In those elections, the National League for Democracy, led so aptly by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, won more than 60 percent of the popular vote; and as my friend, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), reminded us 80 percent, 80 percent of the seats in parliament went to the National League for Democracy. The Burmese military responded by rejecting the election results, imprisoning hundreds of NLD Members, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and severely curtailing the civil liberties of the Burmese people.

Since that time, the ruling military thugs, who currently call themselves the State Peace and Development Council, have inflicted massive human rights violations and economic privations on the people in Burma. More than 1,300 political prisoners, including the woman elected to lead Burma, Aung San Suu Kyi, still suffer at the hands of their government captors.

Just last month, as we all know, she was forcibly detained when Aung San Suu Kyi attempted to travel outside the Burmese capital to Mandalay. The Burmese regime routinely uses forced labor, and it continues to wage a brutal war against ethnic minorities within its borders.

Mr. Speaker, in August of 1998, I traveled to that region in an effort to secure the release of one of my constituents, Michele Keegan, who had been seized by the Burmese authorities for passing out cards the size of our voting cards that said "We have not forgotten you. We support your hopes for human rights and democracy."

The SLORC repeatedly refused my requests for a visa to enter Burma, so I had to help negotiate her release from Bangkok, Thailand. After 5 days of detention, Michele and 17 other foreign activists were expelled from Burma, but not until they had been sentenced to 5 years imprisonment for sedition.

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Let me remind Members, they handed out a card that said we have not forgotten you, we support your hopes for human rights and democracy, a little card just handed out on the streets in Rangoon; and for that, a 5-year sentence. That is just an indication of what they do to their own people.

Mr. Speaker, I am also proud to note that the State Department reauthorization bill, H.R. 3472, the Embassy Security Act, which I introduced last year that, thankfully, became law, retained a provision that helps ensure that the United Nations Development Program, UNDP, does not enrich the Burmese military regime. It reduces U.S. contributions to UNDP by the amount that that program spends in Burma unless UNDP's activities in Burma: One, are focused on eliminating human suffering; two, are carried out only through private voluntary organizations that are independent of the regime; three, do not benefit the regime; and four, are carried out only after consultation with the leadership of the National League for Democracy and the leadership of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma.

The resolution before us today, Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 328, properly commemorates the 1990 elections, describes adequately and accurately the situation in Burma and expresses the sense of the Congress that the United States should strongly support the restoration of democracy in that country. It urges the military regime in Burma to guarantee basic freedoms for Burmese citizens, to undertake a political dialogue with the National League for Democracy and ethnic leaders, and to immediately release all political prisoners, and to fulfill the conditions of international human rights instruments.

It also recognizes the current sanctions in place against the government of Burma as appropriate means of pursuing democracy and civil liberties for the people of Burma.

Again, I want to thank all those involved, but especially the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER) for offering this resolution.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER) who has offered this and many other resolutions important to human rights. He will be sorely missed when he retires at the end of this session.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) for those kind words, for yielding me the time, and for the leadership that he has brought to bear on this and so many other issues in Asia and all around the world.

I also want to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) as well as the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for bringing the resolution together with the gentleman from Ne-

braska (Mr. BEREUTER) to the floor, and for their leadership on human rights in so many instances. For such a long time they have stood up and stood for those who were oppressed in foreign countries and for the expansion of their rights. I commend them again for doing so with respect to the people of this country, Burma.

Mr. Speaker, I have a written statement I will submit for the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, Burma is a country of almost 50 million people. We talk today about the National League for Democracy. We talk about Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her great leadership for the things that all human beings on this planet ought to be accorded, basic human dignity and basic rights as opposed to the rights of their governments. Yet, in Burma, it is not just the National League for Democracy or Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, it is all the people of Burma who suffer at the hands of this terrible military dictatorship.

There are no rights in Burma. There are no rights to speak freely. There are no rights to worship freely. There are no rights to assemble. There are no rights to stand up and be counted for the things that people believe ought to be done. There are no free elections.

The only free election that has been held in Burma in at least the last 50 years was the one held in 1990 that was won by the National League for Democracy, as has been detailed by each of the gentlemen today.

Unfortunately, that chance for a better life for the Burmese people was stolen away by the military who now run one of the worst regimes in the world in terms of abusing their population.

In August, as the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) detailed, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her followers in the National League for Democracy were again particularly abused as they have been in the past.

But I want to say today, there is nothing this regime can do that will ever overcome this lady. She won the Nobel Prize for Peace. She has an indomitable spirit that cannot be crushed. She is a person of great integrity, great intelligence and great articulation. She is a person of beauty because she stands as an example to the Burmese people of what life could be, how beautiful it could be if only they could live in freedom.

Lately, the international community, thank God, has finally begun to see the regime in Burma for what it is. Most recently, Switzerland decided not only to condemn the conduct of the SPDC, but also to impose sanctions, not as strong as I would like to see, not as strong as those that the United States has imposed, but sanctions; and perhaps we are beginning to see some change in the international community to bring pressure to end the repression in Burma.

Gradually this world is changing. Gradually the world is coming together to stand up for basic human rights for

all peoples. The fall of Slobodan Milosevic. The war crimes tribunal that brings people who violated the rights of others, even in times of war, before a tribunal for accountability. Maybe some day soon we will find a way to believe that the most important thing that we can do on this Earth is to care about one another and to care about establishing a rule of law that guarantees basic human rights.

It is unfortunate that in so many places in the world today that is not being observed, in China and Sudan and Turkey and Burma and many other places. But we are gradually moving in the right direction. The message today is that we must always, always stand and knock on the door day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year until the rights of every single human being on this planet are established and protected. Because the denial of the rights of any single person is the denial of the rights of every one of us.

I want to commend the committee and the subcommittee for bringing this resolution forward, for insisting that we recognize that it has been 10 years since the people of Burma chose a freely elected government and 10 years of ongoing repression by a military regime that wants to offer no rights.

Someday soon, Mr. Speaker, this is going to change. The United States of America must stand up and be counted day after day and year after year to make certain that this happens.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 328, commemorating the tenth anniversary of the free and fair elections in Burma. I would like to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for their leadership in bringing this resolution to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, Burma is a country governed by a military junta. Burma is a country with no respect for human rights and no rule of law. On May 27th, 1990, the National League for Democracy (NLD), led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, won a majority of the parliamentary seats in the nationally held elections. This was a great victory for the champions of democracy and human rights in Burma.

However, the Burmese military regime, known as the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), arbitrarily annulled the results and arrested Aung San Suu Kyi and hundreds of NLD members. Many were forced to flee the country, and ever since, freedoms of assembly, speech and the press have been severely restricted. Hundreds of NLD members are political prisoners and still hundreds more live in exile around the world.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been forced to live under house arrest in Rangoon most of the time since 1989. The past two months have seen the outrageous treatment of the Nobel Peace Prize winner exacerbated. Twice in less than two months, Suu Kyi has been detained when she has tried to travel outside the capital. Soldiers have surrounded her car on the road side, removed her from the train station and surrounded her house, while she is forced to sit idly inside.

Since September 22nd when she was again placed under house arrest, her telephone lines have been cut, and she has been denied all communication. Presently, it is not only Suu Kyi being suppressed, other members of the NLD's central executive committee are either in detention or being kept incommunicado under virtual house arrest, with approximately one hundred NLD members, including members of the NLD women's group having been arrested by the military in recent days.

I commend the statements in recent days from the international community, condemning the SPDC. Switzerland announced last week that it would impose sanctions on Burma, similar to those imposed by the European Union, which include freezing assets, visa bans and an arms embargo. Although these sanctions are not as strong as current U.S. sanctions, slowly the international community is coming together to demonstrate that we will not do business or work with these egregious violators of human rights.

We must stand together as one, against those who, when they violate the rights of one of us, violate the rights of all.

The United States is seen as a beacon of light and of hope around the world. We must remember what our country stands for: democracy, the rule of law, freedom of speech and free and fair elections. The Burmese can not exercise any of these basic human rights.

I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in standing with our fellow duly-elected representatives in Burma and join their call to take their rightful places in parliament.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Does the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) to control the time?

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and ask unanimous consent that he be permitted to control the time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask the Chair how much time we have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) has 4 minutes remaining.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, this measure recognizes the 10th anniversary of the freedom and fair elections in Burma and the urgent need to improve the democratic and human rights of the people of Burma. Aung San Suu Kyi and members of the parliament who were elected in 1990 have not been able to establish a government inside of Burma. Many of her supporters have been and still are in prison. Thousands have been tortured and murdered.

The government relies heavily on slave and forced labor for construction projects. The International Labor Organization, the ILO, has even banned it from participating in any ILO meetings.

The government of Burma is indifferent to the illicit drug trade and was recently decertified for not fully cooperating to our Nation. It has provided a safe haven to notorious Burmese drug dealer Khun Saw. It was just reported that Secretary of Defense Cohen was in Thailand 2 days ago and that the Thai are now asking for 50 helicopters to fight against the drug traffickers.

The Thai military has estimated that some 600 million amphetamine pills flooded Thailand just last year from across the border with Burma. Thai community leaders have frequently accused Burma of destroying Thai youth, warning that drug addiction was reaching crisis proportions in Thailand with more than 600,000 young people reportedly hooked on amphetamines.

On September 19, Secretary Cohen said, "We understand now that there is a serious problem concerning Thailand by virtue of methamphetamine being produced and distributed from Burma. The drug problem will be high on the agenda of the commander of the U.S. forces in the Pacific, who is due to visit Thailand next week."

On September 21, Aung San Suu Kyi was prevented from boarding a train to leave Rangoon, and many of her supporters were arrested. Since that time, diplomats and friends have been prevented from seeing her, and no one knows the whereabouts of her arrested colleagues.

Just 2 days ago, Mr. Speaker, the government-run newspaper in Rangoon issued a statement by officials stating, "Anyone confronting the military government in Myanmar is committing what amounts to high treason."

Mr. Speaker, the only way for the drug production to end in Burma is for our Nation and for the world to take a stronger stand against the illegal Burmese government so that it steps down and hands over the reigns of power to the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would truly be remiss, and it will probably be the last opportunity I have before we adjourn, if I did not express my personal sense of appreciation and gratitude to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER), not only as cochairman of our Human Rights Caucus, but certainly for his outstanding leadership and service that he has rendered to our Nation.

I want the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER) to know how much I really appreciate his friendship over the years that I have got to know him.

Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 328, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF MR. EDMOND POPE FROM PRISON IN RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 404) calling for the immediate release of Mr. Edmond Pope from prison in the Russian Federation for humanitarian reasons, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 404

Whereas Mr. Edmond Pope of State College, Pennsylvania, is a husband, father, grandfather, son, and United States businessman;

Whereas Edmond Pope has visited the Russian Federation 27 times in order to foster better business and university-based research relationships;

Whereas Edmond Pope traveled to the Russian Federation in late March 2000 in order to purchase commercially advertised underwater propulsion technology, as stated in his visa approved by the Government of the Russian Federation;

Whereas Edmond Pope was arrested on April 3, 2000, in Moscow, imprisoned in Lefortovo, and charged with espionage;

Whereas the Russian who allegedly committed an act of treason by aiding Edmond Pope was released and has been living with his family;

Whereas Edmond Pope has been treated for hemangiopericytoma, a rare form of cancer, that was in remission prior to his travel;

Whereas Edmond Pope's father is dying of multiple myeloma, a type of bone cancer that can be hereditary;

Whereas Edmond Pope should receive routine medical care by a qualified, trained professional in order to monitor the possibility of a recurrence of cancer due to his high-risk potential;

Whereas Edmond Pope has missed his annual monitoring visit resulting in a 14 month lapse since his last visit;

Whereas Edmond Pope's prison conditions have caused a dramatic loss in weight and his physical stature has deteriorated;

Whereas Edmond Pope has been denied the basic human right of proper medical attention deserving of an individual in his condition;

Whereas two Americans have died in the past few months within prisons in the Russian Federation and another individual has recently died in Lefortovo;

Whereas Edmond Pope has been unjustly arrested and detained for more than 5 months, preventing him from celebrating his 30th wedding anniversary and the marriage of his son, and during which time his mother-in-law passed away;

Whereas recent events have shown that trials in the Russian Federation involving alleged violations in the area of national security can take several years;